

In the Claims:

We claim:

1-23. (canceled)

- 24. (currently amended) A method for characterizing prostate cancer in a subject, comprising:
- a) providing a sample from a subject, wherein said subject has been diagnosed with prostate cancer; and
- b) characterizing said sample by detecting the presence or absence of HIP1 in said sample with a nucleic acid probe configured to hybridize to a HIP1 nucleic acid sequence consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said presence or absence of HIP1 in said sample is indicative of one or more of properties of said cancer selected from the group consisting of[[,]] chance of PSA recurrence[[,]] and chance of recurrence free survival, and stage of said cancer.
- 25. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said sample is tumor tissue.
- 26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said sample is biopsy tissue.
- 27. (original) The method of Claim 24, wherein said detecting HIP1 comprises detecting the presence of HIP1 mRNA.
- 28. (canceled)
- 29. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said detecting the presence of HIP1 mRNA comprises a detection assay selected from the group